



August 30, 2004

## **West Warwick man is sentenced for to 13 years in prison for Cranston bank robbery**

A federal judge has sentenced **David F. Houlihan**, of West Warwick, to 160 months in federal prison for a robbery at a Citizens Bank branch on Oaklawn Avenue in Cranston in November.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed on August 27 in U.S. District Court, Providence. Houlihan has an extensive history of prior convictions, which factored into his sentence. His prior convictions include breaking and entering and assault.

In April, Houlihan, 43, of 855 Providence Street, pleaded guilty to a federal bank robbery charge. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee said that the government had proof that, on November 22, Houlihan entered the Citizens branch at 965 Oaklawn Avenue and handed a teller a note demanding money. He fled with \$3,566 and left the area in a red car driven by another man. The car was later found abandoned.

A few days after the robbery, Cranston Police received a tip from Rhode Island State Police that Houlihan might be the robber. Tellers at the bank identified Houlihan from a photograph and detectives arrested him on November 27.

**Cranston Police** investigated the case, with assistance from the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** and the **Rhode Island State Police**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee prosecuted it.

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